THE

SPEECH

Of His GRACE

ALEXANDER

EARL OF

MORRAY,

His *Majesties* HIGH COMMISSIONER;

At the Opening of the Second Session of the First Parliament of His *Majesties* Ancient Kingdom of *Scotland*.

The 29th of *April*, 1686.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE great Senſe which His Sacred *Majeſty* retains of your Loyalty, Duty and Zeal for His Service, and of your ſignal Affection to His Perſon and Intereſt, ſo kindly expreſſed in your Proceedings of the laſt Seſſion, hath determined Him to Meet you again ſo ſoon in this; To the end, that as you did then by very ſeaſonable Proofs of your dutiful Obedience, even during the raging inſolence of an unnatural Rebellion, demonſtrat your Loyalty and firm Adherence to the Crown; ſo His *Majeſty* would not be wanting on His Part, to ſhew His Paternal and Royal Care of you His Ancient and Loving People, by giving you freſh Opportunities, of doing ſuch things as may tend to the univerſal Good of the Nation, as a generous Return to your Affections.

As all the States and Ranks of men in this Kingdom have been moſt eminent in their Loyalty, Love and Deference to His *Majeſty* in their ſeveral Degrees and Capacities, both when he Honoured you with His Royal Preſence, and ſince; So His *Majeſty* is Graciouſly Reſolved, that you ſhall in your ſeveral ſtations, ſhare of the Effects and Influences of His Royal Care, Tenderneſs and Protection, by Marks of His Royal Favour, which He intends ſhal be as Comprehenſive and General, for the Security and Happineſs of you all, as your Duty and Kindneſs towards Him have been remarkable.

Purſuant to this, I am to aſſure you that His *Majeſty* doth indeavour with all imaginable Care to open a free intercourſe of Trade with His Kingdom of *England*, as one of the ſureſt ways to ſave His Royal Burrows from the Ruine Threatned by the decay of Commerce, and will leave nothing unеſſayed that may Promot a Work ſo beneficial to this Kingdom.

And for your further Encouragement, the King hath fully Inſtructed His Envoy at the Court of *France*, to uſe his utmoſt Endeavours for having the fifty *Solz per Tunn* diſcharged, and for recovering the Poſſeſſion of the other Priviledges of the *Scots* Merchants Trading with that Kingdom, which have been now a long time ſuffered to run into Deſuetude.

And His *Majeſty* conceiving that the Burghs of Regality and Barony, enjoy more of that Trade, for which the Burrows Royal bear the ſixth part of the Ceſs of the Nation than does juſtly fall to their ſhare; Has therefore been Graciouſly Pleaſed to Inſtruct Me to give His Royal Conſent to ſuch Regulations therein as you ſhal think juſt and equitable.

And there having been ſeveral Complaints made to His *Majeſty*, of the trouble which Merchants of this Kingdom meet with in the matter of the Staple and Trade with the *Netherlands*, I am fully inſtructed to Give His Conſent to what you ſhall Adviſe as Reaſonable, for the Redreſs thereof for the future.

And whereas His *Majeſty* is Informed of the great Prejudice which this Kingdom ſuffers by the Importation of *Iriſh* Cattel, Horſes and Victual: I am alſo fully Inſtructed, not only to give His Royal Aſſent to whatever may free you from that Abuſe in time-coming: But likewiſe to enquire into the Connivances and Malverſations of thoſe who in times paſt have been entruſted to hinder and diſcover all ſuch illegal Importations, to the end that they may be puniſhed according to Law.

I am alſo to acquaint you that the King being Informed, that the want of an open Mint is a ſenſible prejudice to the Traffick of the Kingdom; I am therefore Impowered to give His Royal Aſſent to what the Wiſdom of this Parliament ſhall think Juſt and Reaſonable in that Point.

As His *Majeſty* in His Royal Prudence and Goodneſs intends to Promot the Trade of this Nation, by all poſſible and fit Methods, So He hath Commanded Me to tell you, that He is not at this time to Demand any more Supplies or Impoſitions of any kind, notwithſtanding of the great and ne-

ceſſary Charge, which the Suppreſſing of the late horrid Rebellion has put Him to; Being fully convinced that your Affection and Alacrity have already prompted you to give all that was convenient for you to ſpare. In Requital of which, He is *Reſolved* to Do all that He can for the Advancement of the Good and Intereſt, and Increaſing the Wealth of this Kingdom; A thing which His *Majeſty* is very ſenſible has been a long time too much neglected: Conceiving His Royal State, inſeparable from the Happineſs and Flouriſhing Proſperity of His People. And the King well knowing how heavy the Ceſs lyes upon the Land-rents, if it were not indiſpenſably neceſſary, as well for your own ſafety, as the Support of His Government, would willingly diſcharge ſome part thereof: But this being impoſſible, I am fully Inſtructed to paſs any Law with your Advice and Conſent, that may give eaſe in that Matter, not diminiſhing the former *Quota*.

I am further to Acquaint you, That His *Majeſty* has taken ſpecial Care to Inſtruct me fully for giving his Royal Conſent to all ſuch Laws and Regulations, as may ſecure exact Payment to the Countrey from all His Officers and Souldiers in their Quarters, both Local and Tranſient, for the future; and to ſee exemplary Puniſhment Inflicted upon all Perſons who heretofore have oppreſſed any of His loving People, by denying or detaining their juſt Dues from them.

And for Eaſing the Commons of many Oppreſſions, Alledged to be Committed by Commiſſars, I am likewiſe Impowered to paſs an Act, with Your Advice and Conſent, for Regulating the ſame.

That which will Surpriſe You much, is, That as the King is Solicitous to Provide for the Security of this Kingdom, and to Encourage and Cheriſh his Dutiful and Loyal Subjects as His Obedient Children, ſo as a Tender-hearted and Compaſſionate Father is willing and ready to Forgive, and Mercifully to Pardon the unexcuſable Faults and Crimes of ſuch as have behaved themſelves Undutifully, and even Rebelliouſly againſt Him. And therefore to ſettle and quiet the Minds of His People, and once more to drive away the Fears of the Guilty, by delivering them from their Apprehenſions of that Puniſhment which they have ſo juſtly Deſerved, He hath Graciouſly been pleaſed to Inſtruct Me, to paſs His full and ample Indemnity, with ſome few neceſſary and reaſonable Exceptions, for all paſt Crimes and Miſdemeanors whatſoever; which may Convince the World that His *Majeſty* delights by ſweet and gentle methods of Mercy and Lenity to reduce all to Duty and Obedience, and that nothing but their own Perverſneſs and Incurable Obſtinacy in Evil, can force from Him that juſt Severity which ſometimes becomes neceſſary for the Safety of His People and Government; though contrary to His Princely and Merciful Temper.

And now, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, After ſo great and excellent Deſigns for promoting the Honour, the Eaſe and Wealth of this Kingdom, after His Reſolution to pardon ſo many Enemies, and to free ſo many of the Guilty from further ſevere, but juſt Proſecutions, His *Majeſty* believeth that none will wonder, if He Deſire by the Advice and Conſent of this His Great Council, to give Eaſe and Security to ſome of His good Subjects of the Roman-Catholick-Religion, who have in all times been firm to the Monarchy, and ready to Sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes for the Service and Security of the Crown: So that His *Majeſty*, who ſo perfectly underſtands the Loyal and Dutiful Temper and Genius of *Scotland*, reſts fully perſwaded of Your ready and chearful Complyance with His Royal Deſire and Inclinations, tending ſo much to Your own Security and His Satisfaction; And that You will ſend me back to my Great and Royal Maſter with the good Tidings of the continued and dutiful Loyalty of this His Ancient Kingdom. By which you will ſhow your Selves the beſt and moſt affectionate Subjects, to the beſt, the incomparable and moſt Heroick Prince in the World.

FINIS.